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## Welcome

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We now have **over 200 subscribers to *The Scoop***. Thanks for your support! In order to reach the goal of bringing you fun, inspiring and innovative ideas for library youth services, we need your help. Send us a tip or program idea, a book review, or a longer article on something you implemented at your library or a topic of interest. *The Scoop* will enter all contributors into a drawing every 3 months for great prizes: puppets, books, and other youth services items. **This month we have a contest for Harry Potter events. Be sure to read about it in "Library to Library."**

## Meet Linda Henderson, Jerome Public Library

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**Linda Henderson** is the children's programmer at the Jerome Public Library, where she has worked for 5 years. This is her first job in the library field. She works mainly with pre-school through 6th grade doing 3 storytimes a week, the summer reading program, and First Book outreach with Headstart. Linda is also starting a new adventure.

She has been invited to go to JEEP once a week during the summer months and do a storytime there. Linda shared, "Sandy Rupp (from Idaho Stars, the state's Child Care Resource and Referral administrative agency) and I are doing this jointly. We are also doing a Summer Reading Camp called "Camp Love to Read" on August 4th here at the library. This is a first and I am thankful for Sandy's enthusiasm in working on this."

Linda says her favorite thing about her job is working with children in a productive way. "It seems as though what we do at storytimes may stay with the children and perhaps make a difference someday for them. My favorite series of books is the *The Unicorn's Secret* by Kathleen Duey. This series is a fantasy series and has good content as well as interesting reading."

[Editor's note: for more on this series, see the web site at: [www.theunicornssecret.com/](http://www.theunicornssecret.com/)]



When asked what she does when she is not at work, Linda replied, "In my free time (what's that?), I like to take walks near the Snake River Canyon with my granddaughter. I love spending time with her in any capacity. I like to go to the driving range at the Jerome Country Club and take out my frustrations on a poor innocent golf ball. I also like to visit people, especially those who do not get many visits."



## Library to Library

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*The Scoop will enter all contributors who send in a Harry Potter idea into a drawing for a "Harry Potter" package (see photo at right). Deadline for contributions is August 1st. Your ideas will be featured in upcoming issues.*

*Photos are welcome, but photos of children must have photo releases on file at the library.*



### **Libraries Make Plans for Harry Potter Celebrations!**

**Caldwell Public Library's Teen/Youth Advisor Annie Nelson-Adamson** is excited that we are sharing Harry Potter theme ideas in *The Scoop*. "Love it! And I am such a Harry fan that planning the party was and is the greatest fun I've had since I was a kid—might still be a kid for all I know!"

"Our program is called Harry Potter Mania Night. There's no charge and only 60 people can participate. Tickets are available at the library. The program is scheduled for July 15th at 8 p.m. and continues through 12:05 midnight. Those invited are 12-year-olds to adults, and you **MUST** be a Harry fan! We will meet in the community room of the library.

Most of the room will be Hogwarts, and of course we must have Diagon Alley. Professor Snape from Potions class (Assistant Children's Librarian Debbie Gale) will be teaching students to make 'butterbear' (rootbeer), and grotesque green-blue slime and matching green-blue clay. Next we have Professor Trelawny's Divination class, (Megan Rice) who will be teaching students to use the "crystal bawl" and how to read their futures. Next we have Professor Sprout's Herbology class (Diane Mills), who will be teaching students how to make a 'sweet' home for their worms and insects. (This is an eatable experiment and we won't tell all our secrets now). And then there is Diagon Alley. Diagon Alley is a meeting place where folks can play cauldron toss, a Harry Potter board game, Harry Potter card game, Harry Potter computer game, guessing Bernie Botts every flavor bean game, eat pizza, treats, and punch. Be sure to enter a drawing to check out the book "Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince" (must have a current library card). Some lucky person will get to take home the book at 12:05 a.m. on July 16th. I will be Professor McGonigal (Annie Nelson-Adamson Teen/Youth Advisor) and make sure that rules are being followed and no one is sneaking out into the forbidden forest. Candi Ciscell (Children's Librarian) will be Professor Candi and help with the party."

(Annie is also excited about being the Teen/Youth Advisor for this year's summer program. It's the first time they have planned a summer reading program designed for teens! She says, "We here at the library are truly hoping the Teen/Youth Group will take off and be a club year round! Yeahhhhh!")



**Julie Woodford, director of Burley Public Library** writes:

"Just wanted to give you an update on our premier Harry Potter night, coming up soon! The library partners with the Book Plaza to sell Rowling's newest book, "The Half-Blood Prince." The book can be released on July 16th, thus our program runs until midnight. Then we distribute the books at 12:01 a.m. The books sell for \$20.00 each and you can reserve your purchased copy at the library

by paying \$10.00 now, getting your coupon, and then paying the remaining \$10.00 the night of the program. To date we have sold 39 copies (out of 100) and they are going quickly. This is without the national media hype that will follow soon. This is not a library fund raiser - merely a tool to get the books into our kids hands at midnight. We also are taking holds now for the ten copies the library will purchase for check-out.

Our program begins at 8:30 p.m., on Friday night, July 15th. We will be sorting students into the various Hogwarts houses, and at 9:00 p.m., our speaker, Candace Hurst, will speak on "Mythical Beasts." This should run about a half hour. At 9:30, we will resume sorting and open the stations. The Health Net students and other interested teens have slated the following activities: Jelly Bean Tasting Contests (Yes, complete with those sometimes nasty Bernie Botts), Harry Potter Trivia contests, Magical Wardrobe making, Quidditch games for older and younger students, and coloring stations for our younger Potter fans. Thanks to a generous donation from a great HP, community-minded patron, we will also have a magician at our event from 10:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m! Health Net, Cassia Memorial, and Minidoka Memorial, have all stepped up to provide the refreshments. Professor Dumbledore has been contacted and will be there.

We hope to draw a large crowd. (Two summers ago we estimated a crowd of over 400 people at our first HP event!). Our activities will be in the library's south parking lot, in the building, in the intersection, and at the fire station. Positive thoughts for good weather and safety are appreciated.



The **Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC)** has posted a **list of fantasy books for Harry Potter fans**. One portion of the list contains books that may have similar story elements and replicate the accessibility, tone, and flavor of the Harry Potter titles. The other portion of the list contains books with similar themes and may be more complex or are great fantasy fiction. For more, go to the web site: [www.ala.org/](http://www.ala.org/). Click on News from the blue menu bar at the top of the page. Then click on the news release for 6/21/05 (about the third item down).

### Free Comic Book Day!

**The Marshall Public Library and the Portneuf District Library**, in the Pocatello/Chubbuck area, hosted a comic book giveaway on May 7th. A comic book artist was on hand to give demonstrations. The event, known as Free Comic Book Day, is an industry-wide event to celebrate comic books, an original American art form created early in the 20th Century. In Pocatello, Empire Comics provided the comics for the library give aways. Book store owner John Murillo characterized the event as part of efforts to encourage kids to read and to use comic books as a tool for literacy.



Kathryn Poulter, Marshall Public's youth services librarian, enthusiastically supported the give away and said, "Anytime someone reads, whether a book, a comic book or a magazine, they are opening a door that expands their world view. Comic books are good springboards into other kinds of books, especially fiction." (*Idaho State Journal*, April 16, 2005)

**An update: Heidi Arzola from Portneuf District** reported that they had about 60 people attend. **Kathryn Poulter reports that Marshall Public** had a good turnout too---more than 75 people. She writes: "The comic book people gave away oodles and scads of free comic books. The best part was that it brought a different type of patron into the library, people who usually don't haunt our stacks came and hung around. It can't help but have been a good thing for everyone."

## Young Adult Corner: How Libraries Benefit Teens

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According to a recent report from Chapin Hall Center for Children, "library-based youth development programs can provide both specific job skills and personal and social development." For many teens involved in *New on the Shelf*, an assessment of a four-year project that funded youth development programs in nine library systems, library activities seemed to be their first experience of working toward goals with adults who took them seriously and appreciated their contributions.

"Youth participants mentioned such benefits as learning technology and other job-related skills, developing personal qualities such as patience and perseverance, and experiencing feelings of acceptance, belonging, and contributing to a group. Youth also expressed their satisfaction in helping other people and in being recognized by librarians and patrons for their contributions. At the same time, program coordinators and library staff reported a range of outcomes they observed in youth, particularly increased self-confidence, sense of responsibility, self-esteem, desire to be successful, and improvements in peer and adult relationships."

The report also found that library staff learned to trust teens with tasks and job responsibilities far beyond what they had traditionally allowed them to perform (mostly shelving books). Staff learned that youth can accept those roles, perform them very well, and can be real contributors. Not surprisingly, youth enjoyed performing a wider range of work. "Shelving books, in fact, was their least favorite task." The report stated that when job and volunteer opportunities for youth were "well structured and well supervised, these expanded work roles for teens provided a much broader range of developmentally positive experiences."

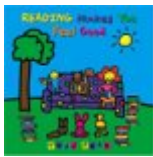
[To see the full report, click here.](#) (To see the 173 page pdf, just register on the site for free and download). We hope to pull more excerpts from the report and feature them here. *If your library has a youth development program or provides job*

opportunities to teens, e-mail [Stephanie](#) and we'll pass along information to readers of *The Scoop*.

## Book Look

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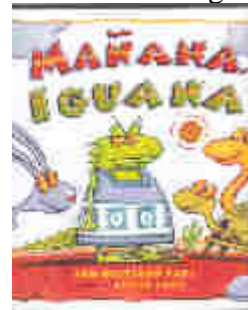
We thought we'd highlight two books that the State Library is giving to schools who agreed to host an assembly in the fall to recognize those students who took part in this year's summer reading program. The 30 public libraries who are taking part in the Read for Your Library promotion will get this last shipment of books to take to their partner schools as soon as the new Harry Potter book arrives!



*Reading Makes You Feel Good* by Todd Parr is done in Todd's signature style---bright colors and fun text. He's the author of another of my favorite titles, *It's Okay to be Different*. This one is full of signs and other environmental print that kids can explore. As Todd says, "read this book and feel

good!"

*Manana, Iguana* by Ann Whitford Paul provides a Mexican twist on the Little Red Hen. Iguana is planning a fiesta, but do her friends want to help deliver invitations or stuff the piñata or cook the food? No, no and no! A glossary of Spanish words is included.



## Upcoming Events in July

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July 2 - **National Literacy Day**. Although there is no permanently established National Literacy Day, in the year 2000, the U.S. Congress designated July 2 as such and that continues to be the date often used to bring attention to issues of adult literacy. You can find more information about adult literacy and a link to a family literacy program directory at: [www.nifl.gov/nifl/faqs.html](http://www.nifl.gov/nifl/faqs.html).

July 4 - **American Independence Day**. In celebration of this U.S. holiday, you can read the Declaration of Independence, or listen to a reading of this historic document at: [www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/revolution/decindep.htm](http://www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/revolution/decindep.htm).

July 15 - **National Summer Learning Day**. The Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins University highlights Summer Learning Day as a time for communities to celebrate the importance of high-quality summer learning opportunities in the lives of young people and their families. Activities are encouraged to showcase summer programs and raise awareness in communities about how summer programs send young people back to school ready to learn,



support working families, and keep children safe and healthy. To learn more, check out: [www.summerlearning.org/summerlearningday/](http://www.summerlearning.org/summerlearningday/).

### Author Birthdays:

July 2 - **Jean Craighead George** (born in 1919). Author of *My Side of the Mountain*, *Animals Who Have Won Our Hearts*, *Gull Number 737* and other stories about the wonders of nature. [www.jeancraigheadgeorge.com](http://www.jeancraigheadgeorge.com)

July 11 - **E.B. White** (1899-1985). Author of *Shiloh*, *The Fear Place* and *Charlotte's Web*. White also wrote *Stuart Little*, *The Trumpet of the Swan*, and more. Read about this author at: [www.harperchildrens.com/authorintro/index.asp?authorid=10499](http://www.harperchildrens.com/authorintro/index.asp?authorid=10499).

July 29 - **Sharon Creech** (born in 1945). Author of *Walk Two Moons*, *Absolutely Normal*, *Chaos*, *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup* and more. [www.sharoncreech.com/meet/meet.asp](http://www.sharoncreech.com/meet/meet.asp)

July 31 - **J.K. Rowling**. Author of the series of Harry Potter books. [www.jkrowling.com](http://www.jkrowling.com)



## Summer Reading News

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### State Library's Talking Book Service has Summer Reading Titles

Would you like to include more readers in your Summer Reading Program? Check out the reading list on “Dragons, Dreams, and Daring Deeds” for readers unable to read standard print at

[www.lili.org/read/summer/tbs-titles-2005.xls](http://www.lili.org/read/summer/tbs-titles-2005.xls). The titles are available free for eligible users through the Talking Book Service at the Idaho State Library. Eligibility requirements for the service are available at <http://www.lili.org/tbs/eligibility.htm>. Registration is easy, and public library staff can authorize the form for most users.



**A new resource for teen summer reading programs:** *Voices for Youth Advocates* (VOYA), the library magazine for those serving young adults, is sponsoring a new award that will go to the high school with the "best" summer reading list. The list will be chosen annually by a volunteer committee of school and public librarians and teen readers. The first winning list will debut in the February 2006 issue. Beyond publication in the magazine, the winning school will also receive a big box of books that are likely reading list candidates. The deadline

for submissions is **August 31, 2005**. For instructions on submitting your list and for more information, go to: [www.voya.com/Contests/index.shtml#readinglist](http://www.voya.com/Contests/index.shtml#readinglist).



### **LSTA Advocacy Mini-Grant Helps Library Promote Summer Reading**

The **Snake River School/Community Library**, in the rural Blackfoot area, and their partner, the Snake River School District, were recently awarded an LSTA advocacy mini-grant to raise the visibility of their library in the community. The grant supported the performance of "The Sword in the Stone" by the Traveling Lantern Theater Company (<http://travelinglantern.com/>) and was used to kick off summer reading in April. The library hoped to generate a 25% increase in attendance and that more families will be introduced to the library. Over 1,000 elementary and middle school children attended one of the performances.

The message the library crafted for parents is: "Make reading a bright spot in your child's educational activity plans this summer. Through our summer reading program we can help your child explore the world of Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds - the theme of this year's program. Help your child retain and enhance their reading skills while participating in our student-centered program."

**Library director Rhonda Butt** sends this update on their project:

"I have learned the statement 'be careful what you wish for' contains much truth. Our kick off event was 100% successful in creating the climate of enthusiasm we hoped for our Summer Reading Program. The students were so excited with the quality and humor of the "Sword and the Stone" theatrical presentation that our program numbers have exploded. Our goal was to expand our participation from 300 to 375 children. Last week we had over 450 in attendance and we have over 600 registered. We have found 450 seems to be a constant for our weekly programs---with 100 to 125 participants daily. We have activities 4 days a week.

We see some of the same children each week, but with vacations, swimming lessons, and sports practices, we have a little different population each week. I ordered enough materials for 450 children; however, we are scrambling as the numbers climb. It is great to see the library overflowing with happy children. We are checking out 800 to 1,000 books daily during the summer reading activity block. Parents check their email, read the paper, browse the shelves, or actually sit in on the stories and learning activities.

When we received over 500 advanced registration forms we knew the project had been successful. In the past there had never been over 100 students register in advance. Because of the advertising, we actually had parents calling and coming into the library to make sure their children were registered, instead of just returning the registration forms to the schools with their students. We decided to institute a preschool only activity time and it has been well attended and well received. It has allowed us to focus our presentations on our youngest population and better meet their developmental needs.



We are having quite an adventure!"

## Know the Numbers

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*Idaho Kids Count 2005* reports:

- 16% of Idaho children live in poverty
- 41% of Idaho children live in low-income households
- 74% of Latino children in Idaho live in low-income households

These statistics impact Idaho's children significantly in terms of summer learning loss.

Low-income students are at the greatest risk for summer learning losses. During the elementary school years, a summer reading loss of three months for children from lower-income families produces a cumulative lag of 18 months to two years by the end of 6th grade. ("Lost Summers: For Some Children, Few Books and Few Opportunities to Read," by McGill-Franzen & Allington. *Classroom Leadership*. August 2001)

***More information on summer learning loss can be found in A Closer Look below.***

## A Closer Look at Summer Learning Loss

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"All young people experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer." This is the first of several points highlighted in the *Primer on Summer Learning Loss* (The Johns Hopkins University's Center for Summer Learning).

Learning losses are greatest in the areas of mathematics and reading, and the degree to which students experience summer learning loss is directly related to their socioeconomic status. Studies show that learning loss in reading is greater for students from low-income families than for students from families with higher incomes. In fact, students from middle-income families generally improve their reading skills during the summer. The availability of reading materials and encouragement to read makes all the difference. Students in middle- or high-income families are more likely to have books available in the home and to be encouraged to read. Research shows, however, that all children who read during the summer, regardless of income level, will improve their reading skills.

The key to preventing summer learning loss in reading is to provide children with the opportunity to read during the summer months. What better reason for libraries to offer a summer reading program?

For more information on summer learning loss, here are some web sites you may wish to explore.

[www.summerlearning.org/research/sumloss.html](http://www.summerlearning.org/research/sumloss.html). Based at Johns Hopkins University, the Center for Summer Learning focuses attention on summer learning loss. Probably the best single web source for information on this topic.

[www.rif.org/educators/articles/primeronSummerLearningLoss.msp](http://www.rif.org/educators/articles/primeronSummerLearningLoss.msp). The *Primer on Summer Learning Loss* in a printable format. Summarizes the best research on this subject.

[www.ldonline.org/ld\\_indepth/summer/summer\\_learning\\_loss.html](http://www.ldonline.org/ld_indepth/summer/summer_learning_loss.html). Learning Disabilities Online provides advice for parents and a list of web resources.

[www.onlib.org/website/pdf/summer\\_learning\\_05.pdf](http://www.onlib.org/website/pdf/summer_learning_05.pdf). *Parents' Resource Guide to Children's Summer Learning* from the Onondaga County Public Library (Syracuse, New York).

[www.nwrel.org/cfc/newsletters/vol4\\_is1.asp](http://www.nwrel.org/cfc/newsletters/vol4_is1.asp). The *Early Childhood E-Newsletter*, from the NW Regional Educational Laboratory, focuses on summer learning activities in this issue.

## Tips & Tools

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[www.itg.uiuc.edu/people/mcdowell/laptime/index.html](http://www.itg.uiuc.edu/people/mcdowell/laptime/index.html)

**Resources for Babies' Lap Time** programs can be found on this web site created by a librarian at the Urbana Free Library in Illinois. It includes tips, theme and sample programs.

## News Beyond Idaho

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If you're interested in checking out other libraries' web sites and e-newsletters, take a look at [www.stcharleslibrary.org/youth\\_services/bookwormnews.htm](http://www.stcharleslibrary.org/youth_services/bookwormnews.htm). The Bookworm News is a publication of Youth Services, St. Charles Public Library District. The library's youth services pages are worth taking a look at too.

And, I can't seem to find the source right now, but I was just reading this week about one library's bilingual dial-a-story program. It sounded wildly successful. If your library has a dial-a-story program, we'd like to hear more about it! Contact [Peggy McClendon](#) or [Stephanie Bailey-White](#) at (208) 334-2150 or 1-800-458-3271

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